

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 are currently pending in present application, Claims 1, 2, and 4-6 having been amended and Claim 3 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Fig. 7 was objected to for not being designated prior art; Claims 4-6 were objected to; Claims 1, 2, 1/4, and 5 were objected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Boehm (German Patent No. 4,305,974); Claims 2, 2/4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Boehm in view of Nicholson (U.S. Patent No. 5,433,456); Claim 1/4/6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Boehm; Claim 2/4/6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Boehm in view of Nicholson; and Claim 3 was objected to for depending from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

With respect to objection to the Fig. 7, Fig. 7 is amended to be labeled as --  
Background Art--.

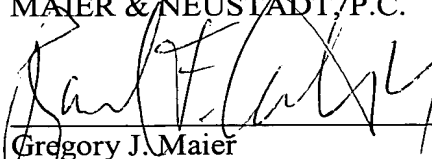
Claims 1 and 2 are amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 3. Therefore no new matter is added. With respect to the objection to Claims 4-6, "a seal structure" is changed to "a seal assembly" as suggested in the outstanding Office Action.

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Reply to Office Action of January 14, 2005

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 7. This sheet, which includes Fig. 7, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet